

Email Received:

Subject: BUMPER PADS
Created By:
Scheduled Date:
Creation Date: 4/25/2011 1:16 PM
From:

Recipient	Action	Date & Time	Comment
To: Michele Phinney (PHINNEYM@dhrmh.state.md.us)			

I've wanted to write you for almost a week but kept struggling with what to say and how to say it. Bottom line is I lost my [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]. While I am definitely still in grieving I have chosen to speak out about the extreme dangers of bumper pads and sleep positioners. Our [REDACTED] investigation by the CPSC was the last before they did their September 2010 'strong discouragement of use'. From there our story was also told along with [REDACTED] (another child death due to bumper pads) in the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. Today the USA Today article came out also shedding light on the bumper pad issue.

It's not easy being in the spotlight about this issue and taking the criticism that it brings. Many of the comments from others has been hurtful. The only thing I wish I could tell everyone is that bottom line is our government HAS put agencies into place to help protect the public masses. The Academy of Pediatrics, the FDA and the Consumer Product Safety Commission wouldn't be here if the government and general public didn't want to believe that this is a way to protect consumers. The further research done, the more heartbroken and frustrated I become at the lack of ACTION from these companies. Strong warnings and recommendations is not enough. The majority of new mothers believe that when they walk into a store and see baby products that these brands have researched, and have come out with a safe product. As the USA Today article states, the bed in the bag sets with bumpers is a 50 million dollar industry a year!

While people can turn and say well, it must have been the parents fault, or well we shouldn't regulate the bumpers people can use their own judgement and live with consequences, or judge us as we start the process of suing the companies involved with our situation; all I can say is this: I was an educated mother who loved my [REDACTED] very much. I can't explain the details of what happened and how my 7 week old [REDACTED] ended up nostril pressed against the bumper pad or how I didn't hear any of it on my extremely loud monitor. All I know is that products I thought were protecting [REDACTED] ultimately killed [REDACTED]. No parent should have to give their child CPR, no parent should have to hold their cold child in their arms or have to relive every moment with the investigators involved. Its a moment I replay and replay in my head every day. I know as I do research and see all the documents, studies and journals that I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT before I placed my [REDACTED] in harms way unintentionally that state that these agencies knew about the dangers but they were still sold HURTS ME! Why when the 2009 APA journal article was released could they have not taken them off the shelves and my [REDACTED] still be here today? Also on the note of suing. Unfortunately in our society today that is the only way to get attention sometimes.

[REDACTED] Monetary hurt is NOTHING like what we've gone through and they need to be held accountable for purposely making a profit on something deemed unnecessary and harmful.

I choose to make the conscious effort to be an advocate in order to save other families from the same hurts we've been through. To save one innocent life will make it worth my temporary discomfort. I wish other families who lost their children to the same products would have been able to do the same so that possibly my [REDACTED] would be here, so I can only do what I wish others would have done for me.

Please take bumper pads out of the cribs of homes, out of the marketplace, out of the 'bed in a bags'. It takes a mass movement at this point to get the point across to these companies and I hope to be a leader in

this fight. I don't know why it has to take years and years of focus groups and agency studies must longer. There is research out there already, lets rise up and let it be known that if the Federal Government agencies won't have the (excuse my language) 'balls' to ban these bumper pads, then lets make the effort step by step, or as I like to say, "baby steps for [REDACTED]"

Thank you!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]